

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly define their invention. In particular, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that the facility includes a line for supplying gaseous and solid effluent from zone Z1 to zone Z2. This amendment is supported by Figures 1 and 2 and the description at, e.g., page 10, lines 5 and 6 of Applicants' specification.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview conducted between the Examiner and the undersigned on October 16, 2008. During the interview, the differences between the present invention and the Ishii et al. patent were discussed. The Examiner explained that he is interpreting the different parts of the same device of Ishii et al. as being different "zones." The possibility of overcoming this interpretation by reciting the presence of one or more lines between separate zones was discussed. In particular, the possibility of amending independent claim 1 to include the limitation relating to the line between zones Z1 and Z2 was discussed. The Examiner indicated that such an amendment appear to overcome the prior art of record but that a further search would be required.

It is submitted the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth hereinafter or, at least, in better consideration on appeal. Moreover, the amendments respond to an interpretation of Ishii et al. only recently explained to Applicants. Therefore, this amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented. For the foregoing reasons, entry of this amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, it is now indicated that the zone Z1 of the present invention is met by the pyrolysis reactor 11 including pyrolysis and gasification means and that the zone Z2 of the present invention is met by the upper

section of the pyrolysis reactor, including the conduit 21 extending down from the pyrolysis reactor. However, given this interpretation, there is no line for supplying gaseous and solid effluents from the pyrolysis reactor 11 to the upper section of the pyrolysis reactor. Thus, the Ishii et al. patent does not disclose the presently claimed invention.

For the foregoing reasons, the presently claimed invention is patentable over Ishii et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, entry of this amendment and favorable reconsideration and allowance of all the claims now in the application are requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 612.43484X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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